



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEACH ADVISORY

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) announces that the Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program, which evaluates weekly water quality at popular swimming beaches throughout the Territory by sampling for Enterococci Bacteria and Turbidity, which is a measure of water clarity, advises the public of the following:

DPNR performed water quality analysis at 33 designated beaches throughout the Territory during the week of February 15-19, 2016. The following beaches **meet water quality standards and are safe for swimming or fishing**:

St. Croix

Stoney Ground
Protestant Cay
Buccaneer
Cramer Park
Frederiksted Public Beach

Pelican Cove (Comorant)
Shoy's
Rainbow
Chenay Bay

Princess (Condo Row)
Grapetree Bay
Halfpenny

St. Thomas

Lindquist
Coki point
Bluebeards
Secret Harbor

Sapphire
Hull Bay
Magen's Bay
Lindbergh Bay
Brewer's Bay
Vessup Bay

St. John

Oppenhiemer

Johnson Bay

Frank Bay

The following beaches **do not meet water quality standards because they exceed the established Enterococci Bacteria threshold and therefore are not considered to be safe for swimming or fishing:**

St. Croix

Dorsch

Cane Bay

New Fort (Ft. Louise Augusta)

St. Thomas

Bolongo Bay

Water Bay

Frenchman's Bay

St. John

Cruz Bay

Great Cruz Bay

High levels of Enterococci Bacteria and Turbidity may be caused by runoff due to heavy rains, heavy marine vessel traffic, high wave activity near the shoreline, irresponsible recreational use, etc. Runoff can consist of sediment, pesticides, animal feces and oil & grease, all of which are harmful to the waters of the Territory.

DPNR will continue to monitor these popular swimming areas. DPNR also recommends that you use your own discretion when swimming or fishing at the designated beaches. If the waters appear muddy or murky or have foul odors, do not swim or fish. For additional information regarding water quality call the Division of Environmental Protection at 773-1082 in St. Croix.